



# Department of Justice

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## DEFENDANT SENTENCED FOR ALIEN SMUGGLING

### *Canadian Man Sentenced for Smuggling Illegal Aliens into the United States Near Fort Covington, New York*

March 20, 2012

[Plattsburgh, New York]—United States Attorney Richard S. Hartunian, United States Homeland Security Investigations Resident Agent in Charge, Rouses Point, Leroy Tario, and Border Patrol Agent in Charge, Burke, Michael Casey announced today that DONALD MURRAY GALLAHER, age 55, of Black Diamond, Alberta, was sentenced to 12 months incarceration after pleading guilty to Alien Smuggling, in violation of Title 8, United States Code, Sections 1324(a)(1)(A)(i) and (a)(1)(B)(ii). GALLAHER pled guilty on January 5, 2012, pursuant to a plea agreement, in front of United States District Court Judge Norman A. Mordue in Syracuse, New York. A conviction of Alien Smuggling carries a maximum sentence of ten (10) years imprisonment and a fine up to \$250,000

GALLAHER was arrested on July 22, 2011, after he entered the United States through the Port Covington Port of Entry. Shortly after GALLAHER entered the United States, his two accomplices, Ross Brian James and John Duder, both Canadian citizens, were detected after they illegally entered the United States. It was discovered that Ross Brian James was carrying two loaded firearms, registered to GALLAHER, at the time of his arrest. John Duder pled guilty to misdemeanor Entry Without Inspection in violation of Title 8, United States Code, Section 1325, and was sentenced to time served on August 2, 2011, by Magistrate Judge Larry Kudrle in Plattsburgh, NY. Ross Brian James pled guilty to Illegal Importation of Firearms, in violation of

Title 18, United States Code, Section 922(l), and was sentenced to one year incarceration and three years of supervised release on February 22, 2012, by United States District Court Judge David N. Hurd.

"Targeting smugglers is a top priority for Homeland Security Investigations," said Nick DiNicola, assistant special agent in charge of HSI in Albany, N.Y. "As smugglers have shown time and time again, they have no qualms about putting their clients and our New York communities at risk in hopes of turning a profit. This sentence should serve as reminder to smugglers: law enforcement will continue to pursue you from Rouses Point to the Rio Grande Valley."

The investigation was conducted by United States Homeland Security Investigations, Customs and Border Protection and United States Border Patrol from Burke, New York. The case is being prosecuted by the United States Attorney's Office for the Northern District of New York

Any questions may be directed to Assistant United States Attorney Julie S. Pfluger in Plattsburgh, New York at 518-314-7800.